

March 19, 2020

### ***A Message from Mayor Annette Iafallo .... Follow-up to State of Emergency Declaration on March 18***

*I'd like thank everyone for their patience and cooperation as we work to implement necessary precautions against COVID-19 (coronavirus), including the State of Emergency declared yesterday in the City of Lackawanna.*

*Our purpose in declaring the State of Emergency was twofold. First and most important, it will help ensure the health and safety of our citizens. Second, it positions Lackawanna for aid/reimbursements which may be available in the future. While there is no guarantee of aid/reimbursements, our action yesterday was an important step should these become available.*

*I have received many questions about what a State of Emergency means in the case of coronavirus. Following are a few clarifications which hopefully you will find helpful:*

- As a general rule, be extra cautious with your activities. Follow the precautions/safeguards communicated by various federal, state, county and city agencies – especially with regard to social distancing and hygiene factors like frequent hand washing, etc. Now is not the time to take chances.*
- There is no driving ban associated with this State of Emergency. However, you are encouraged to stay home except for the most necessary activities like grocery shopping, medical/pharmacy trips, and work as required. Even for grocery and medical/pharmacy needs, explore alternatives such as home delivery or Teladoc for medical.*
- For work-related matters, follow the report to work process your employer has in place during this time. Every employment situation is different so you should be in regular contact with your employer/supervisor. Again, there is no driving ban, so if you need to report to work you can do so.*
- It is OK to go outside for a walk or run, but please do not congregate in large groups, anywhere.*
- Lastly, if it's not necessary to go anywhere, please stay home.*

*In addition:*

- *We appreciate the concerns about postponing bulk trash pickup and recycling. We are complying fully with the directive from Albany to reduce workforces by 50% to help control the spread of coronavirus. Our focus for those DPW employees who are on duty is regular garbage pickup.*

*We plan to revisit our bulk trash and recycling schedules on April 20 and provide further updates at that time.*

- *As noted above, the focus of our DPW teams will be conducting regular garbage pickup – which will remain scheduled weekly.*
- *Any questions you have about school or municipal housing matters, please contact the Lackawanna School District or Municipal Housing offices directly.*

*Stay Home. Stay Safe. And God Bless.*

*Annette.*